International Seabed Authority

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Legal and Technical Commission

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Selection of candidates for training programmes proposed by Global Sea Mineral Resources NV, China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation

Recommendation by the Legal and Technical Commission

I. Introduction

1. During its meetings held from 22 February to 4 March 2016, the Legal and Technical Commission met to advise the Secretary-General on the selection of candidates for the training programmes proposed by Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (GSR), China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association (COMRA) and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC).

2. GSR submitted a training proposal pursuant to the contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules signed with the International Seabed Authority on 14 January 2013. In its proposal, it has offered to make available for a candidate from a developing State a two-year Master's programme in marine and lacustrine science and management, starting in September 2016 and organized by the Faculty of Science of the Free University of Brussels, the Antwerp University and the Ghent University. The Master's programme adopts a multidisciplinary approach that integrates physical, chemical, geological, ecological and societal aspects and includes the topics of nature conservation and sustainable development.

3. COMRA submitted a training proposal pursuant to the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts signed with the Authority on 29 April 2014. In its proposal, it has offered to make available from July to September 2016 five at-sea training places for candidates from developing countries. The trainees would be working on board the *Hai Yang Liu Hao* research vessel for an uninterrupted three-month cruise and be divided into three groups: two would work on geological survey methods and sample-processing technology, two on environmental survey methods and sample-processing technology and one on geophysical survey methods.

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4. JOGMEC submitted a training proposal pursuant to the contract for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts signed with the Authority on 27 January 2014. In its proposal, it has offered to make available five places on board a research vessel for candidates from developing States for a duration of about 40 days, between May and June 2016. The training programme would focus on environmental survey techniques for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts.

5. The secretariat circulated a note verbale on each training programme to all members of the Authority in September and October 2015, inviting them to nominate candidates no later than 31 December 2015. The training programmes were also advertised on the website of the Authority, by flyers at United Nations meetings and other events and through social media. As at 31 December 2015, 13 applications from 9 countries had been received for the GSR training programme (8 from the African group, 3 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 2 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group), 49 applications from 21 countries had been received for the COMRA at-sea training programme (26 from the African Group, 9 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 2 from the Eastern European Group, 11 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 1 from the Western European and other States Group) and 54 applications from 22 countries had been received for the JOGMEC training programme (14 from the African group, 35 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 4 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 1 from the Western European and other States Group).

6. At its first meeting, on 22 February, the Commission designated a training subgroup to carry out an initial review and appraisal of the applications and to report to the Commission. The subgroup met on each working day from 22 February to 3 March. In making its selection of candidates, the subgroup considered the relevant regulations and the principles, policies and procedures applicable to the training programmes, in particular the recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programmes under plans of work for exploration (ISBA/19/LTC/14).

7. The selection of candidates by the subgroup was based on the qualification criteria provided by GSR, COMRA and JOGMEC for their respective programmes, in particular language proficiency, educational background, work experience, potential career development of candidates, reasons for seeking training, expected benefit to the candidates' countries and other merits reflected in the applications. In addition to those considerations, due regard was paid to equitable geographical distribution and gender balance, in particular the interests and needs of the landlocked and geographically disadvantaged developing States, as requested by the Council of the Authority in its decision ISBA/20/C/31, paragraph 6, adopted at its twentieth session. The consultations between the secretariat and GSR, COMRA and JOGMEC were also taken into consideration during the selection process.

II. Recommendation

8. On 3 March, the training subgroup reported on its work and submitted to the Commission a list of first-ranked candidates and alternates recommended for each training programme. After due consideration, the Commission accepted the recommendation and agreed to the following list of first-ranked candidates and alternates for the GSR, COMRA and JOGMEC training programmes. Should any of

the first-ranked candidates not accept the training or be unable to take part in it at short notice, the alternates should be reached in the order ranked for the training place.

GSR Master's programme	
First-ranked candidate:	Carolina M.L. Camargo (Brazil)
Alternate 1:	David Fenner Moorcroft (South Africa)
Alternate 2:	Thomas E.T. Whiddon (Cook Islands)
COMRA at-sea training programme	
Group A (geological surveys)	
First-ranked candidates:	Mr. Noah Awuntigi (Ghana)
	Johnmark Isarua Homu (Papua New Guinea)
Alternate 1:	Sutharat Srirod (Thailand)
Alternate 2:	Batbayar Batkhuu (Mongolia)
Alternate 3:	Bamidele Samuel Oresajo (Nigeria)
Alternate 4:	Inkiba Batoko Arsène (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
Alternate 5:	Thet Naing Win (Myanmar)
Alternate 6:	Jeff Baya Nshimba (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
Alternate 7:	Martine Joseph (Haiti)
Group B (environmental surveys)	
First-ranked candidates:	Fidele Kouilga Yameogo (Burkina Faso)
	Alanna Smith (Cook Islands)
Alternate 1:	Gor Gevorgyan (Armenia)
Alternate 2:	Naftaly Nyakundi (Kenya)
Alternate 3:	Christopher Esquea (Dominican Republic)
Alternate 4:	Tiago Maximiano (Brazil)
Alternate 5:	Nadine Fatou Quattara (Burkina Faso)
Alternate 6:	Jhonsley Eurica Romain (Haiti)
Group C (geophysical surveys)	
First-ranked candidate:	Elizabeth A. Pérez González (Mexico)

Alternate 1:	Mohamed Moawed Abou-Mahmoud (Egypt)
Alternate 2:	Newdeskarl Saint Fleur (Haiti)
Alternate 3:	Ana Clara Coni Mello (Brazil)
Alternate 4:	Mike Ken (Papua New Guinea)
Alternate 5:	Django Mady Coulibaly (Mali)
JOGMEC at-sea training programme	
First-ranked candidates:	Jean Marie Bope Bope Lapwong (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
	Mohamed Ahmed Moheb Eldesouky (Egypt)
	Viliame Momoivalu (Fiji)
	Preeyaphat Kongthaworn (Thailand)
	Luis Polido de Souza (Brazil)
Alternate 1:	Hai Trinh Le (Viet Nam)
Alternate 2:	Solomon F. Dan (Nigeria)
Alternate 3:	Mamatha Singanahalli Shivaramu (India)
Alternate 4:	Wael Abdelwahab Ibrahem (Egypt)
Alternate 5:	Anh The Tran (Viet Nam)
Alternate 6:	Ahmed Mohamed Gad (Egypt)
Alternate 7:	Chon Thanh Vu (Viet Nam)
Alternate 8:	Capter John Tubo (Philippines)
Alternate 9:	K. M. Azam Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
Alternate 10:	Zolboo Ganbaatar (Mongolia)
Alternate 11:	Haitham Said al Farqani (Oman)
Alternate 12:	Abdulkadir Mohamed Farah (Somalia)